

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

NCNA SATURDAY EDITORIAL CHARGED RIGHTISTS STILL HOLD LARGE SHARE POWER CHINESE LEADERSHIP, TRYING STRIKE BACK DESP-TE TENG DOWNFALL (REUTER, NYT 5/16).

ACCORDING RADIO PEKING, PRC HAS SET UP NATIONAL MICROWAVE ,ELECOMMUNICATIONS TRUNK-LINE NETWORK WITH CAPITAL AS CENTER. FROM NOW ON, THROUGH NATIONAL TV HOOKUP, PEKING CAN TRANSMIT COLOR/BLACK-AND-WHITE BROADCASTS TO MORE THAN 20 PROVINCES AND AUTONOMOUS REGIONS FOR SIMULTANEOUS RECEPTION (AFP NYT 5/16). --

NYT'S SULLIVAN (5/16) REPORTS INDICATIONS PRC CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING VERY LARGE ATOM-SMASHING MACHINE. NOTES HALF OF EIGHT-MAN PRC TEAM SCHEDULED ARRIVE GENEVA
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TO STUDY LARGE ATOM-SMASHING MACHINE NEARING COMPLETION

THERE ARE ENGINEERS.

LIVINGSTON MERCHANT DIES; WAS ON DUTY NANKING WHEN CKS REGIME COLLAPSED IN 1949 (WP; AP, SUN; NYT'S TOMASSON).

2. THAILAND

US AMB WHITEHOUSE, THAI FON MIN PHICHA MET 90 MIN 5/14 DURING WHICH US PRESENTED PROPOSAL TO ALLOW RAMASUN MILITARY FACILITY CONTINUE OPERATION PLUS ALLO' MORE THAN TO-KEN FORCE ADVISORS REMAIN. WRITTEN MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSAL TO BE GIVEN THAI GOVT NEXT WEEK (ANDELMAN, NYT; SUN 5/15).

3. NEW ZEALAND

NZ PM MULDOON ANNOUNCED 12-MONTH WAGE FREEZE, SET LIMITS ON DIVIDENDS IN ORDER STABILIZE PRICES, RETURN EXTERNAL SOLVENCY, MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL EMPLOYMENT (REUTERS, NYT; AP, WSJ).

4. KOREA

KIM DAE JUNG REFUSED ANSWER PROSECUTORS' QUESTIONS WHEN TRIAL RESUMED SATURDAY. CHARGED WAS PREVENTED SEEING FAMILY, LAWYERS (NYT SEOUL). ALL 24 DEFENSE LAWYERS WALKED OUT IN PROTEST AGAINST "UNFAIR TRIAL" WHEN COURT DENIED MOTION FOR DELAY (WP 5/16). RIOT POLICE BLOCKED APPROACHES COURT HOUSE. DEFENDANTS' WIVES KEPT AWAY FROM GATE, BURNED ADMISSION TICKETS. TWENTY PROTESTORS DETAINED BRIEFLY AFTER CLASH WITH POLICE. INCLUDED AMERICAN MISSIONARY CHARLES KRAUTH, MRS. STEPHEN MOON, WIFE FORMER THEOLOGY PROFESSOR (AP, SUN 5/16; WITH PHOTO MRS. MOON).

NCNA PYONGYANG REPORT SUNDAY SAID NK MINDEF CHOE HYON RELIEVED FOR HEALTH REASONS" BY DECISION PEOPLES' CENTRAL COMMITTEE FRIDAY. APPOINTED DEPCHAIRMAN NATL DEFENSE COMM. REPLACED BY ARMY C/S O JIN U (AFP, NYT 5/17). ALSO REPORTED RADIO PYONGYANG (WP).

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POLICE DIRECTOR KIM SUNG CHOO FRIDAY SET JUNE 15 DEADLINE FOR MEN, YOUTHS CUT HAIR SHORT. ORDERED "INDISCREET IMITATION OF THE DECADENT FOREIGN FASHION" WIPED OUT. UNDER NEW LAW, THOSE FAILING COMPLY, RESISTING GOVT HAIRCUT, COULD BE JAILED UP TO 29 DAYS. SAID POLICE GAVE 559,600 COMPULSORY HAIRCUTS OVER PAST FOUR MONTHS REFERRED 25,000 TO SUMMARY COURTS FOR RESISTING BARBER (AP, SUN 5/16).

5. SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP

NVN SAYS SECSTATE'S AFRICAN MISSION WAS "HASTY FIRE-FIGHT-ING" TRIP TO HELP PRES' WH RACE, PROMOTE US GLOBAL

"COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY" STRATEGY. IN MILD TONE, PRC CALLED TRIP ATTEMPT REINFORCE US POSITION IN FACE USSR ADVANCES (UPI, CHIS-T 5/10).

6. INDOCHINA

IN PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT 5/17 "TODAY" TV SHOW RELEASED BY NBC, SECSTATE INTER ALIA NOTES NO PROGRESS IN DIRECTION VN BECAUSE HANOI TRIED "BLACKMAIL" US BY USING REMAINS TO RESTORE ECON, OTHER AID. ADDS WE WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED, WILL NOT ATTACH ANY CONDITIONS TO MIAS (GWERTZMAN, NYT).

PRG SAYS 1 MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN SAIGON, MOSTLY BEGGARS, DRUG ADDICTS, PROSTITUTES, ORPHANS, FORMER GVN SOLDIERS. ADDS GOVT WILL SOLVE PROBLEM BY SENDING PEOPLE TO RURAL AREAS (REUTER, PHINQ).

LAOTIAN GOVT DECIDES NOT EXTEND FOREIGNERS' VISITS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHOSE SERVICE REQUIRED HELP DEVELOP COUNTRY. THREE EXECUTED FOR SABOTAGE, INCLUDING GRENADE ATTACKS ON SOVIET/CUBAN EMBASSIES (REUTER VIENTIANE).

7. INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

KENNEDY SUBCMTE REPORT SAYS INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN US, THAILAND FACE CONTINUING PROBLEMS RESETTLEMENT. ADDS UNCLASSIFIED

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UNEMPLOYMENT/UNDEREMPLOYMENT INCREASING IN US, WITH REFUGEES FACING PROBLEMS LONELINESS, DEPRESSION (MANN, SUN).

PHIL AREA NURSE RETURNS 2 VIET CHILDREN TO MOTHER, SURRENDERS ON KIDNAPPING CHARGES (NORDLAND, PHINQ).

8. JAPAN

SPECIAL ENVOY SAITO MET SECSTATE 30 MINUTES FRIDAY, AMID REPORTS LOCKHEED SCANDAL MAY FORCE OUSTER PM MIKI. US OFFICIALS SAID ONLY THAT SAITO OUTLINED SITUATION JAPAN, HAK AFFIRMED US PLEDGE COOPERATE WITH GOJ LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES (AP, SUN 5/15).

MIKI SAID SATURDAY HAS WON PROMISE OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM CHIEF RIVAL FUKUDA. PUTS OFF, AT LEAST FOR WHILE, MAJOR LDP FACTION LEADERS' DRIVE DEPOSE PM (WP 5/15).

SOV EMB OFFICIAL SAID FRIDAY MATCHEKHINE ARREST ON ESPIONAGE CHARGE "GROUNDLESS," THREATENED ESCALATE INTO DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT UNLESS RELEASED PROMPTLY. TOLD PRESS MATCHEKHINE CLAIMS ARREST ON GROUNDS TRIED BUY SECRETS FROM US SAILOR "PURE PROVOCATION" (SAAR, WP 5/15). FIRST SOV ARRESTED JAPAN ON SPY CHARGE IN FIVE YEARS (TAKAYAMA, SUN 5/15).

MALCOLM (NYT 5/15) NOTES DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATION IN FACT MATCHEKHINE ARREST WEDNESDAY NOT ANNOUNCED UNTIL FRIDAY, HOURS BEFORE AMB POLYANSKI DUE PRESENT CREDENTIALS. CITES SPECULATION TIMING DESIGNED EMBARRASS SOV, EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AT CONTINUED DETERIORATION JAPAN-SOV RELATIONS.

MATCHEKHINE REMAINED IN CUSTODY, CONTINUED HUNGER "TRIKE MONDAY, IN PROTEST AGAINST ARREST. CASE REFERRED PROSECUTOR FOR DECISION WHETHER BRING FORMAL CHARGES (REUTER TOKYO).

ASAHI REPORTS US-JAPAN-IRAN-NORWAY JOINT VENTURE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCOVERED 180-TRILLION CUBIT FT GAS DEPOSIT FIVE MILES OFF IRAN COAST IN PERSIAN GULF. POTENTIALLY "WORLD'S LARGEST SINGLE GAS FIELD" (WSJ, TOKYO).

MAZDA SALES INCREASED 21 PCT OVER SIX MONTHS ENDING APRIL. EXPORTS US "SURGED" 133 PCT, TO 64,915 UNITS (WSJ, TOKYO).

KOYO SEIKO SUBSIDIARY AMERICAN KOYO BEARING MFG CORP, BEGINS SHIPPING BALL, TAPERED BEARINGS FROM NEW 20 MILLION DOL AUTOMATED PLANT, ORANGEBURG, SC. PARENT FIRM ATTRACTED BUILD PLANT, EMPLOYEES TRAINED UNDER SC REVERSE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (JOC, WESTLAKE, OHIO).

MITSUI, MITSUBISHI, SUMITOMO EXECS INSPECTING PORT FACILITIES, INDUSTRIAL PARKS NE FLORIDA. TRYING DETERMINE HOW WELL AREA FITS INTO INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PLANS (JOC, JACKSONVILLE).

DEMAND FOR SOY PROTEIN SAID GROWING FASTER THAN SUPPLY, AS JAPAN, OTHER COUNTRIES INCREASE USE TO "EXTEND" BEEF, FISH (GARINO, WSJ).

9. THAILAND (CONT'D)

RTG FONMIN SAYS US MADE "INTERESTING" PROPOSALS TO ALLOW RAMASUN STAY OPEN, NUMBER US TECHNICIANS REMAIN. STATION MAY BE MANAGED IN PART BY THAI TECHNICIANS (SIMONS, WP 5/15).

WITH US PULLOUT, RTG BECOMING ONE OF LARGEST ARMS PURCHASERS N AREA. AEROSPACE GIANTS COMPETE FOR TRADE, AS NORTHROP SELLS 16 F-5ES; SINGAPORE SUPPLIER SELLS 3 SEA WOLF-CLASS PATROL BOATS. RTG REPORTEDLY WANTS 3 MORE SHIPS, AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES, CONSIDERING REPLACEMENT SOME OF NEARLY 200 TANKS. MANY BELIEVE RTG NOT SPENDING MONEY WISELY, SINCE IMPOSSIBLE MATCH VN. INDICATIONS FROM NVN THAT NOT DISMANTLING MIL MACHINE SEA

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